

Castro's Secret Police Hold U. S. Secretary

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Havana, Sept. 16 (AP)

Fidel Castro's secret police held an attractive blond United States Embassy secretary in jail today and brushed off protests by the American Ambassador.

The seizure of Mrs. Marjorie Lennox, 26, of San Francisco, a confidential secretary in the Embassy's important economic section, was dramatic evidence of the virtual breakdown in United States-Cuban relations.

United States Ambassador Philip Bonsal called her arrest "completely illegal." Cuban authorities refused to tell him what charges—if any—they have against her.

The Ambassador went personally to the Foreign Ministry to deliver a bristling oral protest yesterday after earlier written protests were ignored.

The first Embassy official who tried to see Mrs. Lennox at headquarters of the Cuban military intelligence—DIER—was held there four hours himself and then sent away.

Later another official managed to see Mrs. Lennox for a few minutes and reported she was hysterical at the time. Two later attempts by Embassy officials to contact her last night were rebuffed.

Armed agents of the Castro security forces raided Mrs. Lennox's apartment in the heart of the tourist belt in the fashionable Vedado section at 1:30 yesterday morning.

She was held 10 hours while they questioned her and searched the apartment and then was taken to Dier headquarters.

Her arrest came to light only after she failed to show up for work and United States officials made inquiries at her apartment building.

Mrs. Lennox, who is divorced, has worked in Cuba since last November. Her passport does not carry diplomatic immunity but it was considered a serious breach of protocol to jail a diplomatic employee without referring the case to the Embassy.



MARJORIE LENNOX

—AP Wirephoto

An embassy spokesman said she may have been arrested in reprisal for the recent ouster of a Cuban Consular official in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Drug Firm Seized

Mrs. Lennox's father, Fred Augustiny, said in San Francisco that the State Department in informing him of his daughter's arrest "seemed to feel that although it is a pretty serious incident, she won't be harmed."

The Castro regime meantime made another grab of American-owned property in Cuba by taking over the plant of E. R. Squibb & Son, a chemical and drug firm.

Three American tire and rubber companies challenged in

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the Cuban supreme court the recent intervention — a step short of confiscation — of their plants worth \$26 million. They also protested to the Labor Ministry. Company officials held out little hope of recovering the plants, which are now under Cuban management.

The Castro regime also took another step toward solidifying the island's economic ties with the Communist bloc by signing a trade treaty with Hungary to get \$8 million in credits.

Facts with Reds

Mr. Castro already has made trade pacts with the Soviet Union, Red China, Czechoslovakia and Poland, providing Cuba a total of more than \$128 million in credits.

While Mr. Castro prepared to leave for the United Nations General Assembly in New York this week end there were indications his armed forces at home were about to mount a military offensive against insurgents in the Escambray mountains.

A report from Cienfuegos said there seemed to be a mobilization of militiamen for a jump-off into the nearby mountains in south-central Cuba.

The strength of the rebel forces is believed to range from 500 to 1,000 men. Some of them are well-known members of Castro's revolutionary army that defeated dictator Fulgencio Batista.